

REMARKS

In the action of April 6, 2011, the examiner objected to the drawings, objected to certain language in claim 1, rejected claims 1-5 and 7 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Adamsson; 1-5 and 7 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Kuo; and rejected claims 8, 10 and 13-17 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Calabrese in view of Shipp.

Applicants have carefully considered the examiner's remarks and have amended claims 1 and 8 to clarify the invention of those claims. Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the rim has a flat upper edge which is flat and is higher than at least half the height of the tallest bristles. This distinguishes the claimed rim over Adamson, the rim of which is significantly lower than one-half the height of the tallest bristles, and Kuo, the upper edge of which is not flat.

Further, in response to several statements of the examiner concerning lack of a positive limitation relative to use of the brushhead as part of a power toothbrush, applicants have included language that the brushhead is powered and adapted for use with a power toothbrush.

In view of the above, claim 1 defines patentable subject matter over Adamson and Kuo.

Claim 8 has been amended similarly relative to the brushhead, being powered and adapted for use on a power toothbrush. This distinguishes claim 8 over the combination of Calabrese and Shipp, both of which are manual toothbrushes. Note further that the bristles are taller than the paddle members, so that the paddle members are free to move in operation to create a shear-type fluid cleaning effect on the teeth. There is hence no contact between the paddle members and the teeth, during use of the brushhead. This is different than both Shipp and Calabrese, in which the individual members must be of a particular height relative to the bristles so that they actually contact the teeth in operation. Otherwise, the structure of Calabrese and Shipp have no functional significance.

Also note claim 18, in which the paddle members run for substantially the length of the brushhead, with the bristle field divided into two longitudinally. Neither Shipp nor Calabrese shows that particular structure. Note new Figure 8, which shows that structure

Since claims 2-5 depend from claim 1, and claims 10 and 13-18 depend from claim 8, those claims are also allowable.

This is to request a one-month extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 07-1900. Any additional fees can be charged to Deposit Account 07-1900.

Respectfully submitted,
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